

Appl. No. 10/044,365  
Amdt. dated 10/6/2003  
Reply to Office Action of July 21, 2003

**PATENT**

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 11, 13-16, 20-21, and 26 have been amended. Claim 7 has been canceled. No new matter has been added to the amended claims. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

A request for continuing examination (RCE) is being filed herewith.

**Anticipation Rejections of Claims 1-28**

The office action rejection claims 1-28 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,719,369 to Asano et al.

The Applicants have amended the claims to address these rejections. For example, claim 1 has been amended to recite:

“an analog-to-digital converter comprising comparators that compare a voltage at a terminal of the first transistor to a series of resistance values, wherein a first set of the comparators generates HIGH output signals and a second set of the comparators generates LOW output signals in response to the voltage at the terminal of the first transistor;

a digital encoder circuit coupled to receive the output signals of the comparators, the digital encoder encoding the output signals of the comparators into digital signals that represent a binary value, the binary value indicating how many of the comparators generate the HIGH output signals;”

Asano et al. does not disclose or suggest an analog-to-digital converter with a plurality of comparators, and a digital encoder circuit that encodes the output signals of the comparators into digital signals representing a binary value that indicates how many of the comparators generate HIGH output signals.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 and its dependent claims are novel and nonobvious over the cited prior art for at least these reasons. Claims 11-28 are also novel and nonobvious over the cited prior art for similar reasons.

**CONCLUSION**

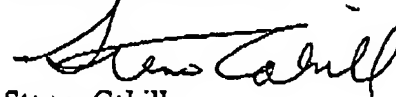
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is urged.

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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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